

tremendous work to continue Kathleen Seefeldt's legacy. These awardees have tirelessly dedicated themselves to the promotion and expansion of the artistic elements that make Prince William County so special.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2022 Prince William County Arts Council's Seefeldt Award Recipients:

Lynn Godino, Outstanding Volunteer in the Arts

Lukman Ahmad, Outstanding Patron of the Arts

James Villani, Outstanding Individual Artist
Manassas Ballet Theatre, Outstanding Arts Organization

Prince William Living, Outstanding Business Supporter of the Arts

Dr. Laura Cherry, Outstanding Arts Educator

This celebration is also of particular significance in that it also serves as the 30th anniversary of the Prince Williams County Arts Council's founding. For three decades now, the Arts Council has celebrated the artistic accomplishments of our community. Their work has kept Prince William County a wonderful place to live and work, and has attracted artistic talent from all over, helping expand our diverse community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the 2022 Prince William County Arts Council's Seefeldt Awardees. These talented, expressive, and dedicated individuals have committed themselves to the preservation of an admirable legacy and have made their community more beautiful at every turn along the way.

RECOGNIZING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS MONUMENT IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the Western New York Community in commending the honorable service of African American veterans throughout the history of the United States military.

The recently unveiled African American Veterans Monument in Buffalo, New York, highlights the contributions made by African American service members to our country. These contributions cannot be understated.

I commend all who supported the development and construction of this project, including the Erie County Chapter of the Links for taking the steps necessary to honor these veterans. This unique monument now stands as a symbol and reminder on the Buffalo waterfront to all Western New Yorkers of the sacrifices that these brave individuals made to preserve our freedoms.

From the Revolutionary War onwards, 2.1 million African Americans served this country with unconditional valor. Over 90 African Americans have been awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's preeminent military commendation. Out of admiration for these esteemed veterans, many of Western New York's community leaders banded together to demonstrate our thanks for their sacrifices—a gesture that many of us believe is long overdue.

The symbolism undergirding this monument uniquely pairs with the traits displayed by the generations of African American men and women who have served our country. Located at the Erie County Naval & Military Park, the monument consists of 12 pillars representing the 12 military conflicts in which these veterans demonstrated their strength, courage, and patriotism. The top of each pillar is illuminated by a beacon of light, referencing the practice that active-duty military families used to guide their loved ones home. These illuminations will glow eternally, along with our nation's everlasting appreciation to its African American servicemembers.

We must continue to recognize and commemorate those who sacrificed on behalf of our nation and fought on our country's many historic battlefields. Our selfless and courageous African American veterans of Western New York and the greater United States will forever be remembered within our local community. It is my honor to represent these veterans, along with the members of our community who crafted this historic monument.

HONORING JAMES HOLMES

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime of achievement of Mr. James Holmes.

Following decades of service to the Culpeper community and 35 years of service to the Culpeper County Electoral Board, Mr. Holmes is stepping down as current Chair of the Board at the end of this year.

Growing up in Culpeper, James Holmes attended George Washington Carver School and was among the first integrated classes at Culpeper High School.

Mr. Holmes' determination to improve our Commonwealth for future generations of Virginians brought him back to Culpeper after he graduated Cum Laude from Virginia Union University and earned his JD from Howard Law School.

A licensed ordained Baptist minister who has pastored in Culpeper for decades, Mr. Holmes has held many positions with the Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association.

From his service on the Electoral Board to casting an Electoral Vote in 2008 for our first Black president, James Holmes has demonstrated a commitment to civic engagement and elevating the voices of Virginians within his community.

Mr. Holmes has touched many lives throughout his career—as President of Culpeper Housing and Shelter Services, President of Culpeper County United Way, President of the Culpeper County Equalization Board, and as a caring member of his community.

Today, I thank James Holmes for his commitment to progress, equality, and community empowerment.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF LT. COL. DAN WAGNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of Lieutenant Colonel Dan Wagner upon his retirement from the United States Army after 20 years of selfless service to our Nation. Lt. Col Dan Wagner has made immeasurable contributions in service to our great Nation.

Lt. Col Wagner was spurred to action by the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and joined the Army shortly thereafter. He has since had an exemplary military career. Over the course of his service, his assignments included three years of tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and other areas with both conventional and special operations units.

Prior to his retirement this summer, he served as a legislative liaison for U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) in Washington, D.C. Lt. Col Wagner focused on developing and executing legislative strategies to secure support for a \$12 billion budget, including appropriations and authorizations for Joint Special Operations, Special Mission Units, and Intelligence.

On behalf of special operators for operational and programmatic issues of Congressional interest, Lt. Col Wagner coordinated with several offices in the Department of Defense, including the Offices of the Secretary of Defense, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense Special Access Programs Coordination Office, and Geographic Combat Commanders.

Using his extensive experience with the inner workings of the Pentagon, Geographic Combatant Commands, and the National Security Council, Lt. Col Wagner served as a senior representative for USSOCOM to the Central Intelligence Agency on national security and counterterrorism issues. He worked to revamp policies both global and internal, as well as to coordinate de-confliction and synchronization efforts.

Lt. Col Wagner served on the Army Staff in Legislative Affairs where he maintained the intelligence portfolio for the Secretary of the Army. He also served in the personal office of Rep. Mike Rogers, Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Prior to joining the Army, Lt. Col Wagner was a small business owner in Southeastern Ohio. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from DePaul University and a Masters in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University. Additionally, Lt. Col Wagner completed the Manage Mentor Program for Business, Management and Marketing at Harvard University.

Lt. Col Wagner is a passionate and selfless leader who has devoted his career to ensuring military operators receive the intelligence and support they need to keep our Nation safe. Madam Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues please join me in thanking Lt. Col Wagner and his family for their service as they enter the next chapter of their lives.

SUPPORTING FY23 OMNIBUS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

I want to thank Chair DELAURO for her tireless work to finish this legislation—she deserves great credit.

As Chair of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I marked up the House Defense bill to President Biden's original request of \$761.7 billion.

I felt his number was an appropriate level of funding for our national security.

While I agree that we must make adjustments based on inflation and other global events, I am disappointed in the Senate's insistence on increasing defense spending at the expense of domestic priorities.

We must realize that our national security is not defined by defense dollars alone—we damage our national security when we don't adequately address the needs of the American people: in education, health care, and other critical investments here at home.

Turning to the Defense bill—for Fiscal Year 2023 we provide \$797.7 billion, \$69.3 billion above the 2022 enacted level.

We know that all Americans are struggling with higher prices—and that includes our men and women in uniform—so we have prioritized investing in our most important national security asset, our service members and their families.

This Defense bill puts people first—by including:

A 4.6 percent pay raise for our service members;

And an increase of 11 percent to the Basic Allowance for Housing, and the Basic Allowance for Subsistence—which will help offset the cost of rising rent and food prices.

I am very proud that this bill also invests in:

Confronting the climate crisis—with more than \$2 billion in clean energy programs and funding to add resilience to DoD installations from the impacts of climate change.

Over \$39 billion for Defense Health and medical research, including over \$582 million for cancer research.

And \$1.6 billion in Environmental Restoration programs, including over \$250 million for PFOS remediation and disposal research.

This bill also continues our commitment to helping the Ukrainian people defend their democracy against Russian aggression by providing robust funding for the Ukraine Security Initiative and other NATO allies and partners in Europe.

The time has come for Congress to finish our work, pass this omnibus, and fund the entire federal government.

DECLARING ARCHIVED RECORDS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, I wish to include in the RECORD a letter Vice Chair WILLIAM TIMMONS and I sent on December 22 to the Acting Archivist of the United States. The letter communicates our committee's designation of all records that the Archivist receives for archiving, as our committee draws to a close, as available for public use.

This letter takes an important step towards the kind of openness that the Modernization Committee has championed as part of our over 200 recommendations and over 40 hearings held since the beginning of the 116th Congress to make the institution more effective, efficient, and transparent on behalf of the American people. Having our records available for public use will also aid future reform committees, researchers, and the public alike to advance the cause of modernization going forward.

I ask my colleagues to join me in taking this important step towards recognizing the value of transparency and the legacy of the Modernization Committee.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, December 22, 2022.

MS. DEBRA STEIDEL WALL,
Acting Archivist of the United States, The United States National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. WALL: As Chair and Vice Chair of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress ("Modernization Committee"), we are writing to let you know that we consider any and all Modernization Committee records that you receive from the Office of the Clerk for purposes of archiving to be available for public use, in accordance with Clause 3 of House Rule VII.

Established in the 116th Congress and extended through the 117th Congress, the Modernization Committee has been tasked to investigate, study, make findings, hold public hearings, and develop recommendations to make Congress more effective, efficient, and transparent on behalf of the American people. To this end, we have issued over 200 recommendations and held over 40 hearings over the last four years to improve the day-to-day functioning of the House.

A pillar of the Modernization Committee's work has been to enhance the transparency of the House and of the legislative process. As such, we believe it is important to make our archived materials available for the public as soon as possible.

In addition, one of our final recommendations was that the House "should authorize a Modernization Select Committee at least every fourth Congress." If the House implements this recommendation, a future select committee would benefit tremendously from having our records and analyses at its immediate disposal, as these documents collectively constitute a wealth of information about our work and the issues that our members and staff discussed.

Absent a committee order, we understand our archived records would remain sealed for up to 30 years by default under Rule VII. For

the above reasons, though, we wish to make you aware that, should you receive requests from other committees or interested parties, we consider the records reserved from our committee for archiving to be available for public use. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

DEREK KILMER,
Member of Congress.
WILLIAM R. TIMMONS IV,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
SEWA INTERNATIONAL USA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of the thousands of Sewa International USA employees to assist underserved communities around the world throughout the Coronavirus pandemic.

Sewa International USA was founded in 2003 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity organization. Comprised of 43 chapters with more than 5,000 volunteers across the country, Sewa workers take inspiration from the Hindu principles of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—meaning "the whole world is one family"—and Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaḥ—meaning "may all be happy." These complementary outlooks have driven volunteers to serve humanity in times of distress.

This service takes many forms. Sewa volunteers work with local communities to coordinate developmental projects and mobilize partners, donors, and on-the-ground volunteers to make meaningful changes in the face of disaster. Sewa has organized volunteer service in the wake of 30 disasters over the last two decades, including the recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Hurricane Harvey in 2017, and the California wildfires in 2019 and 2020. Internationally, they have assisted after some of the world's greatest crises in recent memory, from Haiti's 2012 earthquake to Pakistan's 2013 flooding to the evacuation efforts from ongoing war in Ukraine.

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine rages on, Sewa International volunteers are conducting massive evacuation efforts to help thousands of students escape the violence. Their erroneous network has been invaluable in the last few years, providing \$15 million worth of food, PPE, and medical supplies to those in need. Regardless of the type of crisis, Sewa International always finds meaningful ways to help.

Without regard for race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality, Sewa International USA has done tremendous work to ameliorate the effects of some of the world's greatest disasters. Hundreds of thousands of people benefit from their work every year, and I am proud to represent some of these volunteers in Congress. These volunteers work tirelessly across the globe to aid those who are most vulnerable, and it is no surprise that they are one of the seven key trusted partners of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the extraordinary service of Sewa International USA and their thousands of volunteers. Their work over the last two decades has been invaluable in recovery